

St. Johnsbury Record.

COMMENCED AUGUST 8, 1837.

ST. JOHNSBURY, VT., FRIDAY, MAR. 30, 1877.

VOLUME 40—NUMBER 2070.

St. Johnsbury Caledonian.

Published every Friday by

C. M. STONE & CO.,

Opp. Soldiers' Monument, St. Johnsbury, Vt.

Terms:—One copy per annum, \$2.50

in advance. Single copies, 10 cents.

Advertisements:—One square, first week, 25 cents

second week, 20 cents; third week, 15 cents

fourth week, 10 cents; and so on.

For a full description of the various

advertising facilities, apply to the

publishers.

Entered as second-class matter, May 10, 1876

Postoffice at St. Johnsbury, Vt., under

postoffice No. 100, authorized for mailing

at special rate of postage provided for

in act of October 3, 1879, authorized for

mailing at special rate of postage provided

for in act of October 3, 1879, authorized for

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St. Johnsbury Academy Column.

THE STUDENTS OF THE ACADEMY held

their monthly social on Friday evening,

March 16. The presence of a

large number of former students gave

interest to the occasion. We are al-

ways glad to see at these gatherings not

only the recent alumni of the school,

but also older friends, especially the

parents of the scholars.

There is now public declamation on

Thursday and Friday mornings in No.

10, immediately following prayers.

The seniors are writing on a series

of topics illustrating ancient and modern

art and are much interested. The fol-

lowing is a specimen paper:

THE ORDER OF GRECIAN ARCHITECTURE.

By J. H. FENTON.

The origin of Grecian architecture is

commonly supposed to have been in

the eighth century B. C. It attained a

degree of perfection never before equal-

led and in its peculiar development has

not since been surpassed.

To understand some of the reasons

of architecture in Greece at the present

time, we must bear in mind that at the

time of its appearance, there existed

two contemporaneous races in that

country, one (whose origin is unknown)

called Pelagians, was supreme at Athens

at the time of the Trojan war, the other

was more nearly Aryan in its origin

and customs, and largely inhabited

Sparta.

Of the former race all that remains

are a few architectural ruins. Its lan-

guage has been long extinct. The most

noted of the existing remains of Pe-

lagic architecture is found at Mycenae.

It is known as the tomb or treasure

of Athens and is in the form of a pointed

arch. It is quite small in size, and is

now almost entirely underground. As

a rule, Pelagic remains are noted prin-

cipally for stability, making but little

pretensions to beauty.

What is commonly known as Grecian

(more properly Hellenic) architecture,

appeared first at Corinth, four centuries

after the building of the Pelagic re-

mains just mentioned. As usually

classified, Grecian architecture com-

prises three orders,—the Doric, Ionic,

and Corinthian.

The oldest of these orders is the

Doric, the style of which is evidently

borrowed from the Egyptians. It is

distinguished for its simplicity, massive-

ness, and majestic beauty; the columns

have no bases, are large and tapering

in form, and are surmounted by a large

and plain capital. This order is said

to have been more loved and cultivated

by the Greeks than any other. The

oldest existing Doric Temple is at

Corinth, being built 650 B. C. Its

columns are very short in proportion

to their size, impairing its effect as a

work of art. Several other temples might

be mentioned, but the most celebrated and

best example of the Doric order is the

"Parthenon," which has been called "of

the kind the most beautiful building in

the world." At the time of its con-

struction its magnificence probably ex-

ceeded our highest conceptions. It was

constructed with white marble through-

out, was ornamented with sculpture,

and in the proportion of every part, and

the finishing of every detail, was as

near perfection as human works can be.

Its dimensions were 101x227 feet.

The Ionic order is distinguished by

more gracefulness and ornamentation

than the Doric. The shaft is lighter

and rests upon a base. But the prin-

cipal characteristic is the spirals on its

capital, called volutes. It was proba-

bly introduced from Asia. Two tem-

ples of this order, built about the same

time, are historically famous—Diana

at Ephesus, and Juno at Samos. The

larger of these was the temple of Diana,

being 425x220 feet. It also was built

of white marble, some blocks being 30

feet in length. The ancients regarded

this as one of the seven wonders of the

world. It was burned by Herostatus

to immortalize himself, in the year 356

B. C., and was afterwards rebuilt.

The Corinthian order was the last in

use among the Greeks. It seems to be

a union of the Egyptian and Ionic char-

acteristics. Its style is the most elan-

der and ornamented of the three orders;

its capital is handsomely decorated with

acanthus leaves. This circumstance

gives rise to a legend regarding the

origin of the order: that an Athenian

sculptor saw a basket covered with a

tile, around and over which acanthus

leaves were growing, the stalks being

crowded down by the tile forced (to

the imagination of the artist,) the

volute, and having sketched it, he

afterward invented the Corinthian or-

der, with this for a foundation. The

oldest and most beautiful example of

this order is the monument of Lysicrates

at Athens; other buildings are the tem-

ple of Jupiter Olympus, the size of

which is 171x354 feet, and the tower of

the winds.

These are the orders on which nearly

all modern architecture has been found-

ed, and like a theme in music, we might

say, they surpass all variations both in

simplicity, and in true beauty and

grace.

Western Correspondence.

CHICAGO, MARCH 16, 1877.

STUDENT-SUICIDES.

Some of our papers have lately been

giving a summary of the vast amount

of intellectual labor performed by the

illustrious philosopher, John Stuart

Mill, before reaching fifty years of

age. If they followed his course

in his twenty-first year, and then made

a note of what came near being the

result of his excessive, almost superhuman

efforts and attainments, it might have

served as a warning similar to those

which the several recent suicides of

overworked students suggest, instead

of being presented as an example in

anywise fit to be followed. A sad list

has been made up within a few days,

embracing no less than four student

suicides, all driven to death under the

hard grind of too incessant and earnest

application to study. These were Wal-

ter P. Thompson, a recent graduate of

Phillips Academy, Emil Schwerdtfeger,

of Cornell University, a son of Professor

Colvin, of the Ohio Agricultural Col-

lege, but sixteen years of age, and Geo.

C. Wheeler, of Dundee, Mich., aged

twenty-two years, who became insane

from hard study, and manufactured one

of the most infernal of machines where-

with to destroy his life, that he might

have the glory of raising himself from

the dead by the application of some

life-giving chemical he had invented.

These cases remind me of how near

the world came to being bereft of the

benefit—whatever that is—of the great

life-work of

JOHN STUART MILL.

The amount of intellectual labor he

performed in the first twenty years of

his life is astonishing to men of ordi-

nary capacities and of less favorable

The First and Last of Her.

They were all enjoying the breeze

that swept through the wide pines

that summer evening, and I am so

hot of late. The month was May, the

place was Philadelphia, and I am al-

most afraid to say this—it was the

Centennial time. But don't be alarmed,

my reader; I am not going to describe

the Great Exposition, nor tell anything

about it, nor shall I give any infor-

mation concerning 76 of either this or

the last century. I only intend to relate

an incident that happened to take place

there and there.

The people enjoying the breeze were

a family by the name of Fenton, and

consisted of a father and mother, two

grown-up daughters, one grown-up son,

and a little girl.

Mrs. Fenton had just been saying

that she supposed they would soon be

overrun with visitors coming to attend

a few days and see the Centennial.

"Well, let them come," said Mr.

Fenton, heartily, as he turned his pa-

per inside out. "I don't know one

think I remember one. Of course,

"Nor I